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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

2292 7590 04/29/2011
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH
PO BOX 747
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

EXAMINER	
PATEL, NIRAV G	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2624	

DATE MAILED: 04/29/2011

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/590,149	08/21/2006	Toshio Morohashi	5090-0103PUS1	5825

TITLE OF INVENTION: IMAGE COMPRESSION METHOD, IMAGE COMPRESSION DEVICE, IMAGE TRANSMISSION SYSTEM, DATA COMPRESSION PRE-PROCESSING APPARATUS, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	07/29/2011

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

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Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

2292 7590 04/29/2011
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH
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FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s). This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission
I hereby certify that the Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)

(Signature)

(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/590,149	08/21/2006	Toshio Morohashi	5090-0103PUS1	5825

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nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	07/29/2011

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
PATEL, NIRAV G	2624	382-232000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).	2. For printing on the patent front page, list <input type="checkbox"/> (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, <input type="checkbox"/> (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.
<input type="checkbox"/> Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE _____

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY) _____

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): Individual Corporation or other private group entity Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:	4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)
<input type="checkbox"/> Issue Fee	<input type="checkbox"/> A check is enclosed.
<input type="checkbox"/> Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)	<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
<input type="checkbox"/> Advance Order - # of Copies _____	<input type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)	<input type="checkbox"/> a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.	<input type="checkbox"/> b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).
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NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

Typed or printed name _____ Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form or your suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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2292	7590	04/29/2011	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH			PATEL, NIRAV G	
PO BOX 747				
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2624	

DATE MAILED: 04/29/2011

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 608 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 608 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Notice of Allowability	Application No. 10/590,149	Applicant(s) MOROHASHI, TOSHIQ
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Nirav G. Patel	2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the interview summary dated 4/14/2011.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5 and 7-19.

3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

5. Notice of Informal Patent Application

2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment

4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. Other _____.

/Brian P. Werner/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624

/Nirav G. Patel/
Examiner, Art Unit 2624

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Larsen (Reg. No.: 58,565) on April 14, 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. An image compression method comprising:
a preprocessing step of performing preprocessing on input image data; and
a data compressing step of performing a data compression processing on preprocessed image data, wherein
said preprocessing step includes:
a filtering region dividing step of dividing said input image data into a plurality of filtering regions being units for a filtering processing;
a region designating step of discriminating important regions from unimportant regions in said input image data; and
a filtering step of performing said filtering processing only on said unimportant regions for each of said filtering regions to attenuate a high frequency component of said input image data,
said data compressing step includes:

a block region dividing step of dividing said preprocessed image data into a plurality of block regions being units for an orthogonal transform, each shape of which is rectangular;

an orthogonal transforming step of performing said orthogonal transform processing said image data for each of said block regions; and

a quantizing step of quantizing said image data that has been subjected to said orthogonal transform processing for each of said block regions,

wherein each of said filtering regions is a cluster which is included in and is smaller than said block region, and which is consisting of one or more adjacent rectangular regions, each of the rectangular regions being obtained by equally dividing each of said block regions by $2n$ (where n is a natural number) and each having a size of two or more pixels, and said filtering processing is performed using a low-pass filter common to said respective filtering regions.

2. An image compression apparatus comprising:
 - preprocessing means for preprocessing input image data: and
 - data compressing means for performing a data compression processing on preprocessed image data, wherein
 - said preprocessing means includes:
 - filtering region dividing means for dividing said input image data into a plurality of filtering regions being units for a filtering processing;

region designating means for discriminating important regions from unimportant regions in said input image data; and

filtering means for performing said filtering processing only on said unimportant regions for each of said filtering regions to attenuate the high frequency component of said input image data,

said data compressing means includes:

block region dividing means for dividing said preprocessed image data into the plurality of block regions being units for an orthogonal transform, each shape of which is rectangular;

orthogonal transforming means for performing said orthogonal transform processing on said image data for each of said block regions; and

quantizing means for quantizing said image data that has been subjected to said orthogonal transform processing for each of said block regions,

wherein each of said filtering regions is a cluster which is included in and is smaller than said block region, and which is consisting of one or more adjacent rectangular regions, each of the rectangular regions being obtained by equally dividing each of said block regions by $2n$ (where n is a natural number) and each having a size of two or more pixels, and said filtering processing is performed using a low-pass filter common to said respective filtering regions.

9. An image transmission system comprising:

a preprocessing apparatus connected to a data compression apparatus through a first communication line, and

a data expansion apparatus connected to said data compression apparatus through a second communication line, wherein

said preprocessing apparatus includes:

filtering region dividing means for dividing input image data into a plurality of filtering regions being units for a filtering processing;

region designating means for discriminating important regions from unimportant regions in said input image data;

filtering means for performing said filtering processing only on said unimportant regions for each of said filtering regions to attenuate a high frequency component of said input image data; and

data transmission means for transmitting said image data that has been subjected to said filtering processing to said first communication line,

said data compressing step includes:

block region dividing means for dividing preprocessed image data into a plurality of block regions being units for an orthogonal transform, each shape of which is rectangular;

orthogonal transforming means for performing said orthogonal transform processing on said image data for each of said block regions;

quantizing means for quantizing said image data that has been subjected to said orthogonal transform processing for each of said block regions; and

data transmitting means for transmitting encoded image data to said data expansion apparatus through said second communication line,
wherein each of the filtering regions is a cluster which is included in and is smaller than said block region, and which is consisting of one or more adjacent rectangular regions, each of the rectangular regions being obtained by equally dividing each of said block regions by 2^n (where n is a natural number) and each having a size of two or more pixels, and said filtering processing is performed using a low-pass filter common to said respective filtering regions.

11. A data compression preprocessing apparatus for preprocessing image data input to a data compression apparatus that divides said image data into a plurality of rectangular block regions being units for an orthogonal transform, and that performs said orthogonal transform and a quantization on said input data for each of the block regions, the data compression preprocessing apparatus comprising:

a filtering region dividing step of dividing said input image data into a plurality of filtering regions being units for a filtering processing

region designating means for discriminating important regions from unimportant regions in said input image data; and

filtering means for performing said filtering processing only on said unimportant regions for each of said filtering regions to attenuate a high frequency component of said input image data,

wherein each of said filtering regions is a cluster which is included in and is smaller than said block region, and which is consisting of one or more adjacent rectangular regions, each of the rectangular regions being obtained by equally dividing each of said block regions by $2n$ (where n is a natural number) and each having a size of two or more pixels, and

said filtering processing is performed using a low-pass filter common to said respective filtering regions.

12. A non-transitory computer-readable medium having recorded thereon a computer program for preprocessing image data input to a data compression apparatus that divides said input image data into a plurality of block regions being rectangular units for an orthogonal transform, and that performs said orthogonal transform and a quantization on said input image data for each of said block regions, the computer program comprising procedures for executing:

a filtering region dividing step of dividing said input image data into a plurality of filtering regions being units for a filtering processing;

a region designating step of discriminating important regions from unimportant regions in said input image data; and

a filtering step of performing said filtering processing only on said unimportant regions for each of the filtering regions to attenuate a high frequency component of said input image data,

wherein each of said filtering regions is a cluster which is included in and is smaller than said block region, and which is consisting of one or more adjacent rectangular regions, each of the rectangular regions being obtained by equally dividing each of said block regions by $2n$ (where n is a natural number) and each having a size of two or more pixels, and

said filtering processing is performed using a low-pass filter common to said respective filtering regions.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record fails to anticipate or render obvious the amended limitations of claims 1, 2, 9, 11 and 12. Particularly, the claims require among the other recited limitations that the filtering processing is conducted only on the unimportant regions. The combination of would have been to replace the compression processing (S1007, Figure 7) of Kato with units 102 through 105 of Ohyama. This would not meet the limitations of the claim as both the important and unimportant regions are filtered. Furthermore, it is noted that the small blocks divided by 104 is for coding (determining code size), not filtering, thus unable to replace spatial filter processing. It is for these reasons that the claim is not anticipated or rendered obvious in combination by the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nirav G. Patel whose telephone number is (571)270-5812. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8 am - 5 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on 571-272-7453. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Nirav G. Patel/
Examiner, Art Unit 2624

/Brian P. Werner/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624